

**KCDHH Quarterly Activities**  
**January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008**

**Legislation:**

The KCDHH Legislative liaison met weekly with Education Cabinet staff to monitor legislation during the 2008 General Assembly session to ensure that programs and services affecting the deaf and hard of hearing were not compromised and to track new legislation impacting the community.

***Senate Bill 90***

With the proposed closing of the Interpreter Training Program (ITP) at the University of Louisville (U of L) in 2009, one operating ITP in Kentucky will not resolve the interpreter shortage crisis facing the Commonwealth. By 2014, the demand for interpreters is expected to increase by 24%. The Interim Executive Director (IED) met with Senator Gary Tapp in January, proposing to change KRS 164.4781, a post-secondary education statute, to read “at least one” ITP. This change opens the door for other interested universities, including U of L and Western Kentucky University, to establish an independent ITP. Senator Tapp agreed to sponsor the amendment through the Senate and Representative Susan Westrom sponsored the bill through the House. Several students currently enrolled in the ITP at U of L also met with Senator Tapp to emphasize the importance of continuing the program in Louisville. As of March 28, SB 90 had passed both the House and the Senate and is pending signature by the Governor. KCDHH fought to obtain additional funding for a newly established ITP and Senator Dan Kelly was consulted and continues working during the concurrence period of this legislative session to designate funds for newly established ITPs.

***House Bill 406***

HB 406, the Executive Branch budget bill was introduced in January, proposing an 11% cut to the KCDHH budget for FY 08-09 and 09-10. The House version allotted an additional \$2,600 in funds to KCDHH and the Senate version allotted an additional \$50,000 in funds for each FY of the next biennium. Language was added to the detail portion of the budget bill that will extend the two cent surcharge allotment for operation of the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) through June 2010. As of March 31, the final version of HB 406 was still in free conference committee.

## **KCDHH Activity Updates:**

### ***Budget Reduction:***

Governor Beshear required all state agencies to submit a budget reduction plan of 3% for FY 07-08 and a reduction of 11% for FY 08-09 and 09-10. KCDHH provided justification to the Finance and Administration Cabinet, through the Education Cabinet, in an attempt to regain some of those funds for program operations.

The Budget Analyst for the Governor was asked to look through all state agencies' for one-time appropriations during FY 08. Per the 2006 Budget bill, TAP was given an additional \$100,000 for FY 06-07 and 07-08 to offset lower numbers of landline connections. Because this was one-time funding and the state was experiencing a budget crisis, the Governor's office took back the one-time appropriations of \$100,000 for FY 08. With the 3% taken by the new administration for FY 07-08 and the recoupment of the \$100,000 from TAP, the agency experienced a total loss of \$148,000 for FY 08. To offset this loss, the IED pursued support from Senators and Representatives within the General Assembly and educated new supporters regarding KCDHH's fiscal needs so that the agency could continue the exemplary services provided in the past. The current budget language in HB 406, which has been agreed upon by the House and Senate, allocates an additional \$50,000 for FY 09 and \$50,000 for FY 10. However, until final passage of HB 406 the exact budget for the agency is insecure.

### ***Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Petition / Summary:***

During October 2007, KCDHH filed a request with the Public Service Commission (PSC) asking that the funding mechanism for the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) be reviewed and the PSC consider adding wireless consumers to the surcharge. A formal notice was issued after receipt of the petition and a comment period was allotted. Comments were received from several entities; primarily AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon. After consulting with the PSC attorney it was recommended that KCDHH secure an attorney to attend an informal hearing that was scheduled in March, between concerned parties. With the changes experienced in Governor Beshear's new administration and a new Education Cabinet Secretary, the previous Cabinet attorney was unable to represent KCDHH and a private attorney was hired. Numerous meetings were held during this quarter with interested parties, including the attorney, to educate and provide sufficient background information regarding the petition request. The IED and the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the March 17, 2008, informal conference along with the attorney, Bridget Dunaway.

During the March 17 conference, T-Mobile indicated its agreement with the proposed addition of wireless providers to the TAP surcharge, but stated that statutory changes were required to add wireless providers to the Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS)

portion of the surcharge. After much discussion between those attending the conference, the PSC asked representatives at the meeting to provide comments and a response to T-Mobile by April 15, 2008. Additional information was provided by KCDHH to the attorney and the petition was amended and resubmitted on March 28, 2008, requesting the PSC to separate the TRS surcharge from the TAP surcharge if the PSC believed statutory requirements so governed. AT&T supports the addition of the surcharge to wireless providers and indicated such in their response to the PSC filed on March 31. Documentation was provided with comments to the PSC justifying the implementation of the TAP portion of the surcharge to wireless providers effective July 1, 2008. The final decision is pending with the PSC.

Due to the budgetary cuts experienced during the last three months of this FY, TAP equipment distribution has been suspended. A waiting list is accumulating and consumers will be provided with equipment on a first-come, first-served basis once funds are again available, which is anticipated to be after July 1, 2008. Applications continue to be processed, approvals added to the waiting list, and consumers are notified of the delay due to fiscal constraints.

### ***Statistics on the Interpreter Crisis in Kentucky***

SB 90 was introduced as discussed above to encourage the education and training of interpreters in Kentucky. Statistics prove that there is an unmet need within the state and if unaddressed consumers will suffer.

Statistics include:

- Per the National Health Survey of 2005 and 2000 Census information Kentucky has 646,683 deaf and hard of hearing citizens, with approximately 12% (77,602) of those being deaf, requiring sign language interpreters to communicate effectively.
- According to the December 2007 U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, employment of interpreters is projected to increase by 24% over the next decade, much faster than other occupations.
- According to America's Career Infonet, in order to meet the need for interpreters within the state Kentucky will need 310 fully licensed interpreters by 2014. As of January 2008, there are 164 fully licensed and 266 temporary licensed interpreters working in Kentucky.
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf degree requirements was to take effect June 30 of 2008 and 2012, but Associate degree requirements have been extended to June 30, 2009.
- Sorenson Video Relay Service (VRS) operates two centers in Kentucky to allow equal access to telephone communication and employs interpreters. The two centers pull from the general pool of freelance interpreters.

## ***Kentucky Department of Education***

The IED met with the Director of Services from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to discuss prospective projects and initiatives as follows:

Mentor Program/Leadership Training: Work with Kentucky School for the Deaf, mainstream students and Vocational Rehabilitation. To identify those juniors who would benefit from mentorship. This plan would involve several individuals within the community deaf and hard of hearing leaders, acting as a role model and mentor to the students. This would then be coupled with approximately three leadership training programs during the year (Step Program with ECU, Trooper Island, and DeaFestival). This concept was favorably accepted by the Dept. of Education. Further meetings will be with Wilton McMillan and staff from KSD and the mainstream programs.

Interpreter Training Program (ITP) at U of L: KCDHH obtained a budget from U of L regarding the cost of establishing an ITP. KDE will research the possibility of allocating funds to be used as seed money for a newly established ITP within universities of the Commonwealth.

Previous Graduates Meeting: KDE will establish a meeting with previous graduates of KSD and the mainstreamed programs to determine what worked with their education and what did not work. KCDHH's Information Program Coordinator and the Network Analyst I have been chosen to attend and share their different background and experience within the educational system.

## ***DeaFestival 2008***

The KCDHH staff is gearing up for Deafestival 2008. On January 15, 2008, the staff was assigned to Pre DeaFestival and Day of DeaFestival committees. KCDHH staff has conducted several meetings with the Director of World Fest to coordinate logistics on the Belvedere. World Fest has grown and will be a big attribute to DeaFestival. Meetings were also conducted with staff at the Kentucky Center to discuss logistics, layout, and technology needs for DeaFestival. Pre-Show activities will be held at the Muhammad Ali Center in downtown Louisville and a surprise performance will be announced soon.

Performers and Artists applications to participate in DeaFestival 2008 are now on the KCDHH Web site, and many individuals have been contacted to submit proposals. An International theme has been adopted and Peter Cook will host and coordinate the Children's Program. Deaf and hard of hearing professionals and leaders are being contacted to participate in the Dare to Dream segment of the SpotLights Program. The

Visual Artist studio has been renamed in honor of “Cookie” Williams to the Elizabeth “Cookie” Williams studio.

The DeaFestival host hotel will again be the Galt House, although site visits were made and other locations considered. The Seelbach hotel, a historical unique accommodation, submitted a worthy proposal, but due to other activities that will be held during the Labor Day weekend, and concerns with transportation of participants, the Galt House was determined to be the most convenient and efficient location.

### ***Personnel***

The three vacancies at KCDHH were filled during this quarter by Mr. Jim Rivard, Network Analyst I, Mr. Cole Zulauf, Document Processing Specialist III, and Mr. Derek Drury who transferred to Interpreter I. The position of Executive Secretary is currently vacant pending the hiring of an Executive Director.

### ***Executive Director Search Committee***

The Search Committee met twice during this quarter, discussing the goals of the committee, characteristics and qualifications of the new Executive Director and finalizing an advertisement for distribution that will run for 30 days to a lengthy list of professional organizations associated with the deaf and hard of hearing community.

### ***Technology***

KCDHH continues to research technology-based communication, including wireless pagers and videoconferencing. The IED met with Viable, a company that recently released a wireless videoconferencing unit called V-PAD. This device is a portable means of using videoconferencing, similar to a video phone, and looks like a small laptop computer. Viable will send a prototype to KCDHH for evaluation.

The IED met with Doug Clark and Darren Ripley, both of AT&T, to discuss the use of air cards for wireless remote interpreting. AT&T currently utilizes 3G air cards with limited coverage (Lexington, Louisville, and Bowling Green). Mr. Ripley will forward KCDHH a coverage map and an Air Card for a three week trial in hospitals. Mr. Clark requested for KCDHH to send him a hard copy concept of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI). This will enable him to propose VRI to IMS, a collaborative marketing branch of AT&T focusing on consumer needs and high-speed services.

## KCDHH GOALS



**KCDHH Goal I: Improve, strengthen and develop services, including human and communication services.**

### *Kentucky Hospital Association*

The Information Program Coordinator attended a meeting with the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) Effective Communication Steering Committee in Louisville discussing how to reduce communication barriers for deaf and hard of hearing patients in hospital settings. KHA plans to distribute a survey assessing the Limited English Proficiency policy to each hospital in the state of Kentucky. That survey was reviewed and discussed at the meeting. KCDHH was invited and accepted the invitation to speak at the Kentucky Hospital Association convention during 2008.

### *Database Upgrade*

KCDHH staff continues to work on the new Oracle database. Jim Lane, the Education Cabinet consultant hired to assist with the upgrade, has been working on various aspects of development and has been consulting with different staff members for further insight to the needs of KCDHH and clarification of the different forms and information gathering needed.

The database has passed the initial stages of development and is currently importing information from our current ACCESS database and converting it into the Oracle SQL language. To date no significant problems have been encountered and progress continues, as the majority of the design has been completed and many tables and reporting tools are being tweaked. Full implementation of the Oracle database is anticipated by the end of April.

### *Access Center Assignments*

Requests	Filled /pending Assignments	Cancelled Assignments	Interpreting Hours	# of contacts required to fill assignments
AC: Request for Interpreting	54	5	369	15
AC: Request for Captioning	5	1	15	3

AC: Request for Videoconference Interpreting	0	0	0	0
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### ***National Certification Opportunities***

As an RID supersite, KCDHH has hosted nine performance test dates for 42 individuals this quarter. Thirteen individuals tested on January 4-6; on January 26-27, 12 individuals tested; on February 16-17, 8 individuals tested; and on March 14-15, 9 individuals tested. More than 50% of the candidates tested either live or work in Kentucky. KCDHH currently works with four Local Test Administrators to meet the high demand for testing opportunities. Free testing slots to those who qualify was announced in the March *Communicator*, giving individuals an opportunity to take the RID performance test before the new degree requirements go into effect on June 30, 2009. The deadline to apply for one of the free slots is April 14, 2008.

### ***Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Statistics***

<b>Request</b>	<b>Applicants Receiving Equipment</b>	<b>Pieces of Equipment Distributed</b>	<b>Number on Waiting List</b>
TAP: Applying for STE	186	197	139

**KCDHH Goal II: Serve as a clearinghouse of current information for state and national resources to provide appropriate information and referral services.**

### ***Office of Information Services***

#### ***Black History Month***

During February KCDHH celebrated Black History Month by producing a slide show in tribute to famous black deaf pioneers throughout history. The show, which appeared on the home page of the KCDHH Web site, ran more than a minute and a half in length and featured 14 different black deaf advocates, including Claudia Gordon, the nation's first black deaf female attorney, Curtis Pride, a former professional baseball player and many others. An eblitz was sent to Kentucky consumers, publicizing the display which returned an overwhelmingly response, with several consumers sending emails saying the display was educational and very well received. The number of web hits increased substantially as a result.

#### ***Deaf History Month***

KCDHH rang in Deaf History Month, celebrated from March 15 to April 15, with a slide show depicting the successes of the deaf and hard of hearing community. The slide show was posted to the web and is the second in a series celebrating important moments

in deaf history, and reflects the recent change in philosophy regarding the KCDHH home page. To drive traffic to the agency Web site, the home page will be evolving and constantly changing, complete with interactive displays such as slide shows and streaming video. The Deaf History Month slide show is nearly two minutes long and contains images of events such as the *Deaf President Now* movement as well as famous deaf advocates such as Marlee Matlin, Phyllis Frelich and Robert Davila. A press release was also issued bringing attention to Deaf History Month.

### ***Kentucky Hearing-Speech-Language Association Conference 2008***

The Information Program Coordinator and Interpreter I attended the Kentucky Hearing-Speech-Language Association Conference 2008 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, KY. Experienced and upcoming audiologists from across the commonwealth attended. KCDHH set up an exhibitor booth in order to disseminate Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) information and brochures, as well as demonstrate TAP technologies and equipment.

### ***Public Relations output – January 1 through March 31, 2008:***

The Office of Information Services continues to focus on public relation (PR) efforts, and outreach activities to increase awareness of KCDHH and the services offered by the agency. PR activities for the quarter are below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Type of Communication</b>	<b>Topic of Public Relations Announcements and Outreach Activities</b>	<b># Items Distributed</b>
January 10	Presentation	Information Program Coordinator spoke to an after-school ASL class in Frankfort	60
January 16	Press Release	Sent a Press Release announcing the Visor Communication Card program to the Education cabinet for dissemination to all media outlets in Kentucky.	5,247
January 25	News Coverage	IED and Information Program Coordinator appear in a story about the Visor Communication Card program on FOX 41 News in Louisville.	37,000 Households (Nielsen Research)
January 25	News Coverage	Information Office Supervisor distributed information and photos of the Visor Communication Card for a story that appeared in the Bowling Green Daily News.	20,100 (BG circ.)
January 31	Eblitz	Eblitz sent to 856 D/HH/SHH consumers to announce the PepsiCo "Bobs House" commercial to be aired during Super Bowl pregame on 2/3/08	856
January 31	Presentation	Information Program Coordinator spoke to a class of UK speech language pathology majors about deaf culture, distributed p.r. items.	240
February 8	Eblitz	Eblitz related to KCDHH Board vacancies to	1,997



		<i>Communicator</i> subscribers.	
February 14	Eblitz	Eblitz to <i>Communicator</i> subscribers related to Black History Month.	1,450
February 20-23	Outreach	KHSA Conference – Document Processing Specialist III and Interpreter I operated KCDHH booth	280
February 29	Eblitz	Eblitz to similar agencies to publicize the NAD Leadership Training conference.	164
February 29-March 2	Outreach	Information Program Coordinator attended Parent-Professional Conference in Bowling Green – distributed agency information and p.r. items	500
March 13	Eblitz	Eblitz of March issue of the KCDHH <i>Communicator</i> to subscribers	3,064
March 18	Mass Mailing	March issue of the <i>Communicator</i> mailed to consumers	362
March 20	Outreach	Hands Alive Conference – Staff members volunteered and distributed P.R. items	845
March 25	Eblitz	Eblitz sent to interpreters announcing FREE NIC testing slots	162
March 26	Outreach	Faith-Based Conference Workshop Request – mailed 25 of several pr items and brochures	503
March 29	Presentation	Information Program Coordinator spoke at Deaf and Hard of Hearing Health Fair in Cincinnati. KCDHH also had a display booth	1,000

### ***KCDHH Web Counter Hits***

A total of 6,788 web hits were documented for this quarter, a 24% increase from last quarter and the highest in the last five years. The KCDHH Web site allows constituents to obtain information directly, resulting in a more efficient use of agency staff, time and resources.

<b>Month</b>	<b>KCDHH Home Page</b>	<b>Access Center Home Page</b>	<b>Infolink Home Page</b>	<b>Equiplink Home Page</b>	<b>DeaFestival Home Page</b>	<b>Publication Home Page</b>	<b>Bulletin</b>
January	2,404	246	1,550	240	605	807	334
February	2,324	242	563	198	657	447	374
March	2,060	329	529	174	727	515	366
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,788</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>1,989</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>1,074</b>

## *Information and Referral Requests*

The Information and Referral office documented 1,261 requests during this quarter.

<b>Nature</b>	<b>Closed Requests</b>	<b>Incomplete Requests</b>	<b>Pending Requests</b>	<b>Incoming Contacts</b>	<b>Outgoing Contacts</b>	<b>Mass Distribution</b>
OAS: Administration	3	0	0	3	3	0
OAS: Legislation	0	0	0	0	0	0
OEA: Administration	1	0	0	1	2	0
OEA: AC: DAS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OEA: AC: Evaluations	28	0	0	45	29	0
OEA: AC: Outreach	0	0	0	0	0	40
OEA: AC: Request for Captioner	4	1	1	15	13	0
OEA: AC: Request for Interpreter	42	5	12	378	454	0
OEA: TTY: Applying for STE	177	21	171	409	598	0
OEA: TTY: Outreach	2	0	1	4	3	580
OEA: TTY: Repair	1	0	1	1	3	0
OEA: TTY: Request for Application	267	0	3	284	268	0
OEA: TTY: Status Check	0	0	0	0	0	0
OIS: DeaFestival	49	0	0	44	49	580
OIS: Library	19	0	0	22	21	580
OIS: Outreach	4	1	0	6	5	580
OIS: IRA: ASL & Linguistics	8	0	0	8	8	0
OIS: IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	30	0	0	30	33	0
OIS: IRA: Demographics & Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0
OIS: IRA: Education	6	0	0	7	6	0
OIS: IRA: Employment	3	0	0	3	3	0
OIS: IRA: Families & Children	6	0	0	6	8	0
OIS: IRA: Human Services	25	2	1	29	26	0
OIS: IRA: Interpreting	45	0	1	75	49	0
OIS: IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf & HOH	16	3	0	21	28	0
OIS: IRA: Technology	32	1	0	32	36	0
OIS: PUB: Agency	2	0	1	4	3	580

Nature	Closed Requests	Incomplete Requests	Pending Requests	Incoming Contacts	Outgoing Contacts	Mass Distribution
Brochure						
OIS: PUB: Communicator	1	0	0	1	1	0
OIS: PUB: Publications and Directories	10	0	0	10	10	50
OIS: PUB: Visor Card	480	1	1	480	482	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1261</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>1918</b>	<b>2141</b>	<b>2990</b>



**KCDHH Goal III: Initiate and advise the development of public policy and systems, change efforts in cooperation with the Governor, General Assembly, public and private entities and local, state and federal governments.**

***Staff attended:***

On 1/8/08 the Interim Executive Director (IED) met with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). The IED and the HLAA Commissioner Representative spoke on the Telecommunications Access Program, equipment options available, the possibility of distributing wireless devices, and the pending petition with the Public Service Commission. IED shared and discussed the Visor Communication Cards and presented on potential pilot projects to provide wireless interpreting/captioning services in emergency room situations. Members were interested in the effect of the recent budget cuts. IED informed the board that KCDHH still wants to fund the State Fair booth but may not be able to provide the man-power needed. There was a frank discussion regarding the fine line between signers and non-signers being present in the booth.

On 1/8/08 the IED and Internal Policy Analyst III (IPA) met with a representative from ConnectKY to make them aware of the ongoing technology needs of the deaf and hard of hearing and ensure they are included in state considerations for improvements.

On 1/9/08 the IED and IPA met with Senator Gary Tapp to discuss language for a bill to be introduced to the General Assembly regarding the expansion of Interpreter Training Programs throughout the Commonwealth.

On 1/10/2008, the Information Program Coordinator gave a basic presentation to a community American Sign Language class related to Deaf Culture, and an overview of KCDHH. The class was held in Frankfort.

On 1/10/08 the IPA participated in a conference call with officers of the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Administrators (TEDPA) board to continue planning the 2008 and 2009 TEDPA national conferences.

On 1/16/2008, the Information Program Coordinator attended a Kentucky Early Hearing Detection and Intervention committee meeting in Danville. The committee discussed ways to increase and improve family support services for families with deaf and hard of hearing children.

On 1/17/08 the IPA and the Interpreter Referral Specialist met with Peter Cook, performing artist, to discuss terms for his participation in the Kentucky Storytelling Association Conference scheduled for this fall and confirm his participation in DeaFestival 2008.

On 1/17/2008, the Information Program Coordinator met with Pat Bruce of First Steps to compare the current Kentucky Support Network for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Member database with the newly established Kentucky Hands & Voices Member database. The best option seemed to be compiling portions of each database into a new centralized access database.

On 1/28/08 the Information Office Supervisor attended a statewide Emergency Preparedness meeting in Frankfort, where plans for the national conference were discussed.

On 1/29/08 the IED and the IPA attended a Senate subcommittee meeting regarding SB90. The IED testified and answered questions from the subcommittee members regarding the expansion of the ITPs.

On 1/30/08 the IPA attended the Executive Director Search Committee meeting as the liaison for the Chair of the committee. KCDHH staff was represented by the Information Program Coordinator.

On 1/31/2008, the Information Program Coordinator gave a presentation about Deaf culture and KCDHH programs at the University of Kentucky Speech Language Pathology class.

On 2/1/08 the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the Kentucky Board of Interpreters Meeting. The meeting consisted of the number of fully licensed and temporary licensed in the state and budget was discussed.

On 2/2/2008, the Information Program Coordinator attended the Quarterly Hands & Voices meeting in Danville, finalizing paperwork in order to become a complete state chapter.

On 2/3/08 the IED and IPA attended an out of office event with several Commissioners.

On 2/14/2008, the IED, IPA and Executive Staff Interpreter attended the House Budget

Review Subcommittee on Education meeting at the Capitol Annex concerning the Education Cabinet budget in Frankfort.

On 2/19/2008, the Information Program Coordinator attended a training program at the Library and Archives History Center in Frankfort. The training consisted of touring the archives and an overview of all services offered by the library to state employees. The Information Program Coordinator then gave an informative presentation about KCDHH resources, the Telecommunications Access Program, the Access Center and the Deaf Resource Library.

On 2/19/08 the IPA attended the Vocational Rehabilitation Interagency Coordinators Council meeting where all state agencies that work with the disability populations meet to discuss current projects and future goals. A video presentation was given by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DDC) about disabled consumers working with the school systems on their children's Individual Education Plans (IEP). The video was well made and contained great information but was not accessible as it was not captioned. This was noted and future videos should be captioned, per the DDC representative.

On 2/21/08 the IPA participated in a conference call with officers of the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Administrators (TEDPA) board to continue planning the 2008 and 2009 TEDPA national conferences.

On 2/27/08 the IPA attended the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network Advisory council meeting in Louisville. Members heard reports from the Regional AT centers, discussed nominations for the board, reviewed the data reports submitted to the Federal government on performance outcomes and discussed planning for the State Plan that must be submitted in October.

On 2/28/2008, the Administrative Assistant attended a March of Dimes Coordinators meeting in Frankfort. Packets and information were given to all coordinators and fund raising strategies were discussed. Agencies are encouraged to hold events and use the online donation option to raise money.

On 3/4/2008, the IED participated in a videophone meeting with Viable to discuss the new VPAD.

On 3/5/08, the IED and IPA participated in a videophone meeting with Sprint to discuss the addition of wireless devices to the TAP.

On 3/5/2008, the Network Analyst I and Information Office Supervisor attended the Web Accessibility Symposium at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. Topics covered included the legalities surrounding Web site accessibility, recognizing and

understanding the target audience, closed captioning of media on the web for the deaf and hard of hearing, and available software that simplify the utilization of various accessibility methods.

On 3/19/2008, upon invitation from the Education Cabinet Secretary, the IED attended the 2008 Governor's Prayer Breakfast to show support for the new administration. Ambassador Tony P. Hall was the guest speaker.

On 3/20/2008, the Information Program Coordinator attended the Victims Advocate Conference in Lexington to give a presentation related to working with deaf and hard of hearing victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

On 3/20/2008, the Information Program Coordinator and Interpreter Referral Specialist volunteered at the Hands Alive carnival at the University of Louisville. The carnival was for students attending public schools that are deaf, hard of hearing, oral signers, or have cochlear implants. The ages ranged from kindergarten to high school.

On 3/20/08 the IED and IPA attended the House subcommittee meeting to testify regarding SB90.

On 3/20/08 the IPA participated in a conference call with officers of the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Administrators (TEDPA) board to continue planning the 2008 and 2009 TEDPA national conferences

On 3/21/08 the IPA attended the Executive Director Search Committee meeting as the liaison for the Chair of the committee. KCDHH staff was represented by the Information Program Coordinator.

On 3/26/2008, the Information Program Coordinator attended the Investing in Family Support Committee meeting held in Danville. Topics discussed were information gathered at the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EDHI) conference and how to apply that information to improve EHDI services.

On 3/27/08 the IPA attended a video conference demonstration and Open House at the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). Secretary Mountjoy spoke at this event and congratulated KSD on its innovation for using technology to promote educations. The Secretary committed her support and that of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to promoting educational opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing students.

On 3/29/2008, the Information Program Coordinator attended the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Health Fair in Cincinnati as the keynote speaker. The presentation, "i-Connect," was related to self connection and reduction of oppression by knowing our rights as deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The Coordinator spoke about connecting

with families with deaf and hard of hearing children and making a huge impact on the lives of these children. KCDHH also had a booth to disseminate information about the agency and its programs and services.



**KCDHH Goal IV: Empower constituents by providing leadership, training, advocacy, educational and awareness programs and services.**

#### ***Visor Communication Card Video***

On February 20, KCDHH staff members joined with videographers and officials from the Kentucky State Police (KSP) to shoot scenes for a police Visor Communication Card training video. Among the scenes that will appear in the video are a mock traffic stop involving KSP trooper Chris Masters and the Information Program Coordinator, as they demonstrate the correct way to use the card. The IED also spoke of the importance of the card as well as the agency's partnership with KSP. KSP Commissioner Rodney Brewer also spoke during the video, which will also appear on the KCDHH Web site in addition to being used in police training throughout the Commonwealth.

#### ***Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA)***

KDLA is an available agency of the Education Cabinet to make state employees' jobs easier. Their most popular service is "Ask a Librarian" which allows us to ask any question about researching a project, locating statistics, completing or designing training or general education requirements. KDLA will respond to questions within 24 business hours. All requested materials are free and delivered via messenger mail (UPS outside Frankfort). Books, audiotapes, CD's, DVD's, publications and federal documents are available. Online training courses and tutorials are available to state employees and KCDHH staff have taken advantage of several offered.



**KCDHH Goal V: Improve support of people in our organization to create a work environment that fosters productivity and innovation.**

#### ***March of Dimes***

The Administrative Assistant is spear-heading the 2008 March of Dimes fund raising campaign as KCDHH joins the national effort to help the needs of babies and moms across the nation. KCDHH will be holding a variety of fund raising events with a goal of \$500 in contributions. All proceeds support lifesaving research; services, education and advocacy that help babies get a healthy start. A statewide march is set for April 18.

### ***KCDHH Monthly Staff Meetings***

Items discussed at the January 15<sup>th</sup> staff meeting were:

- Visor Communication Cards
- Current NIC Testing dates
- Secretary Mountjoy's visit
- Legislation
- Budget
- DeaFestival 2008

Items discussed at the March 4<sup>th</sup> staff meeting were:

- Professional development of staff biographies
- Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives online training
- Emergency procedures
- 2008 March of Dimes campaign
- Emergency alert links being posted to website

Items discussed at the March 18<sup>th</sup> staff meeting were:

- Senate Bill 90
- Strategic Plan 2008-2010
- Confidentiality regarding NIC testing

### ***Interpreting Workshops***

On February 16, Interpreter I attended "From Theory to Practice: How to Apply Ethical Constructs in the daily practice of mental health interpreting" in Louisville, KY. This workshop focused on mental health ethics and real-life scenarios.

### ***Birthday Celebration***

There were no staff birthdays during this quarter.

### ***Safety Drills***

On March 4, staff participated in a tornado drill practicing emergency procedures.

### ***Wear Red Day***

Staff wore red clothes in support of breast cancer awareness on February 1<sup>st</sup>.